

Torrance Herald

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WHAT IS YOUR POLITICAL CHOICE?

THIS experiment in democracy, known "in fiction of the times" as the United States, has always been operated with recognition of the logic in government by party. Since the days of Washington, through war and peace, in panic and in progress, voters of the country have aligned themselves on either side of political issues and dubbed themselves members of this or that party. Parties have always espoused, promoted and lent themselves to the realization of certain principles. And when those issues have died or been nullified by lack of popular interest the parties lined up on opposite sides, either have died themselves or have found new principles to espouse or combat.

ISSUES are never made, albeit many expounding politicians and statesmen, have vainly tried and are still trying to manufacture them out of their own desire to attract the people and by virtue of such attraction remain statesmen or become office holders. But these attempts to force issues down the throats of the body politic have always failed. For issues are born within the body politic and not outside of it. Which brings us up to the political conditions and status of parties in this riotously political year of 1923.

THERE are two main parties in the United States—Republican and Democratic. The former nourished itself on the principle of anti-slavery. Grown to full stature it grew and prospered on the fertile soil of a protective tariff.

The latter was born with Thomas Jefferson and has come down the years, living sometimes well and sometimes poorly on various principles of intense interest to the people of the country. Its old adherents are free-traders. With the campaign of 1896, when Bryan sought unsuccessfully to ride to office on the old free silver plank, the Republican and Democrat parties have been headed slowly but certainly to the dark pit of past history.

IN 1912, that indomitable figure in American history, Theodore Roosevelt, seeing ahead of his years, realized the approaching demise of the two old parties. His keen political sagacity told him truly that the new alignment in American political life would be conservative and liberal. And he called himself a progressive and set about to kill both old parties with one wide stroke. He failed. But the machinery that he set in motion, or rather the approach of the new alignment which he encouraged, went on apace.

THEN the war came on. And with it came a welding of political interest in the country—a burying of old hatchets until peace should be declared.

But when the armistice was signed the two parties rose up in all their power to take opposite sides on this interesting little matter of international affairs as they touch upon the destiny of these more or less United States. Then did they have an issue—for the war, and our contact with Europe was still fresh in the public mind. Warren G. Harding was elected president.

And so, with a Republican president, the country has proceeded on its way since 1920. Now that same president espouses our entrance into the world court, at which espousal many of his party adherents threaten to jump the traces and start a little party all their own. And the Democrats leap with joy at the proposal and loudly shout, "We were right all the time."

BUT both old parties are finding to their distraction that with the people themselves this matter of world politics isn't much of an issue at all. The next election will be fought out and won or lost on purely domestic issues. Those who are satisfied with their own personal conditions will vote for the present governing party—and those who are not will cast their ballots for a new deal.

For there isn't a real, live made-in-the-homes issue for the two old parties to differ about. The two old parties, dislike it as they may, are as dead as the Populists or the Whigs. Make no mistake about that. For remember that parties live on issues and when there are no issues to live on they die.

SO WE come to the eve of a presidential campaign with two infirm old organizations seeking in vain to make issues and crying loudly and blatantly over matters in which the people are little or not at all interested.

What's the answer? The answer is simple and plain.

The new alignment in American politics stands out sharply. On the one side are the conservatives. On the other are the liberals. On the one side, in both parties, are the "leave things be" boys and the "let's change everything" lads, and both await only organization to become real political parties.

Behind these embryo parties are the people of the country. Before ten years have passed the two political parties of the United States will be, as they are in every other country in the world, liberals and conservatives.

IT IS up to you to choose between the two. In doing so you must consider many things. Do not be so conservative that you mistake hokum and bunk for progressive ideas. Remember before choosing that the progressives have a habit of branding as reactionaries all who do not believe in their glittering reforms. And that the conservatives label as radical many principles that are fundamentally sound and of intrinsic value to the welfare of the greatest number of people.

RIGHT now the meanings of Republicanism and Democracy as applied to political parties has been taken away. The new alignment is taking place before our eyes—the result of natural events.

In the end, with temporary setbacks here and there along the way, this country will be governed by that great mass of people who are neither extremely radical nor extremely reactionary.

Offshoots from both old parties will make up both new parties.

DURING the offshooting there will be many peddlers of hokum, waving attractive principles in either hand and gallivanting around the country in wild attempts to herd the "grand and glorious people" into this new party and that. Time alone will measure the value of their theories. The alone will sift them down to their true worth. But during this sifting process it behooves every American to study conditions carefully.

For the new alignment has been taking place since those intrepid watchdogs of the popular interests set about busting trusts back in the early part of the century. The line is being more sharply drawn. The leaders are battling gallantly for front position, to be there with the banners of leadership when the new lineup is made.

They are busy at it now. They will be busy at it until the country has chosen the next president—and long after that.

IN THE meantime the die-hard party men, the Lodges, the Roots, the Hardings, the Underwoods, the Cox's, the Wilsons will be trying to keep alive the withered old carcasses of the elephant and the donkey with strong shots of oratory. But though they succeed for a time, eventually they will fail. For parties cannot live without issues any more than men can live without air. Meantime it is a lot of fun to watch the die-hards struggle and to witness the vain attempts to manufacture issues in the national factories of political thought. A lot of fun.

KEEP EVERLASTING AT IT EVERY natural phenomenon is a lesson in perseverance.

Dam a river, and if you don't open the flood-gates at times, it will find its way to the sea despite your dam.

Step on an ant hill and come back three days later. It will be rebuilt. Build a mansion of marble. Rain and sun will wear it down.

Life giving elements are eternal. So is life. Temporary obstructions cannot stop progress.

Nature proceeds on her way, molested, but unchecked.

What are your little problems? Nothing, if you strive to overcome them.

Drive ahead to the main object—which is happiness. That is the goal of man. That is your goal. Aspiration is worthless unless it is born of determination.

Leap over, kick down, go around obstacles. Pursue perfection in all that you think and all that you do.

This is the meaning of life. This is the aim of Nature.

In the far distance lies the millennium. That is all we are striving for.

Are you lending your best in this eternal struggle to reach it?

Are you rebuilding your ant hills?

SUPPORT THE LEGION

ONCE a year the people of this community are enabled to view on exhibit all of the produce and merchandise made and sold in the city.

Such an opportunity comes this year on July 31 to Aug. 4, when the Fiesta and Exposition will be held in Torrance under the auspices of the Bert Crossman Post, American Legion.

The Legion members are devoting much time and a great amount of thought and energy to make the fiesta this year match the high aspirations of the community.

They deserve support. But that is not all. The exposition and fiesta has an economic place in the life of the district. It provides clean entertainment, makes fun, gives folks a chance to have a good time.

We believe that the business men believe in the fiesta and in the exposition, that they see its advantages to the entire citizenry.

We believe that no organization deserves support more than the Legion. The boys fought for us. They ask but little from the community—but when they have a request for support they should receive it in full measure.

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